

Tunable Ferroelectric Nitrides (TUFEN)

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated 12/9/2019

Q1. What is the best way to handle if a portion of what is required by the topic call payable milestone schedule is already proposed to or funded by another federal solicitation, but those proposals/projects fall far short of achieving the goals of the TUFEN special topic and required payable milestones?

A1. A selected proposal must be able to stand on its own – meaning no overlap with other federally funded efforts – and fully respond to the TUFEN solicitation goals, objectives, metrics, and deliverables. If a proposer has submitted proposals to other federal agencies that have not been selected for negotiation, it is recommended that information pertaining to these proposals be included in your TUFEN proposal.

Q2. The TUFEN topic calls out a thickness range of 10nm to 1 micron in the metrics table on page 5. If our proposed prototype device is only useful across a subset of this thickness range, is it responsive to TUFEN to propose exploration of a subset of the 10nm to 1 micron thickness range, or must this entire thickness range be studied in every phase 1 effort?

A2. Yes, a subset of the range is responsive.

Q3. Is it responsive to propose multiple phase 2 device demonstrations in response to the TUFEN topic?

A3. The solicitation requires only a single device demonstration in Phase 2. Proposals should include only a single device demonstration in Phase 2.

Q4. Regarding the costs in the TUFEN proposal, i.e. Vol 2 – How should the indirect costs (general overheads like administrative tasks, building maintenance and utilities, cleanroom infrastructure, etc.) be incorporated here? In the template, the price details consist only from direct labor, materials, travel, equipment, ODCs, cost sharing, consultant and subawardee costs.

A4. As stated in the Volume 2 Price Summary MS Excel template (last updated via Amendment No. 04 to DARPA-PA-19-04), Note 3: Rows can be added to reflect labor categories, subcontractors/consultants, additional ODCs, and indirect costs, as necessary. However, none of the fields currently in the template should be removed, to include formulas.

Q5. May National Labs (i.e. Air Force Research Lab) be part of a proposal submitted by a university?

A5. No, National Labs are not eligible to participate in the Microsystems Exploration announcement, per Microsystems Exploration Program Announcement Amendment No. 04.

Q6. As a foreign non-profit organization and beneficiary of public funds, would my organization be treated like an FFRDC and deemed non-eligible?

A6. Per Amendment No. 4, FFRDCs and Government Agencies may not propose to the Microsystems Exploration announcements. For clarification, this refers specifically to U.S. Government sponsored FFRDCs as established and administered in accordance with U.S. Code of Federal Regulations.

Q7. We would like to include a (Foreign Citizen) collaboration in our proposal. Are there any restrictions or additional formalities that will be required?

A7. Per the Microsystems Exploration announcement (DARPA-PA-19-04), "All responsible sources capable of satisfying the Government's needs may submit a proposal that will be considered by DARPA." In addition, "Non-U.S. organizations and/or individuals may participate to the extent that such participants comply with any necessary nondisclosure agreements, security regulations, export control laws, and other governing statutes applicable under the circumstances."